



"JUSTICE AND EQUALITY."

THE FREE TRADER.

Ottawa, June 22, 1842.

Death of Ex-President Polk.

The telegraph brings the melancholy intelligence of the death, at Nashville, Tennessee, on the 18th inst., of chronic diarrhoea, of Ex-President JAMES K. POLK. He had been sick about a week, and for several days all hope had been abandoned of his recovery.

Surely "Death loves a shining mark." Thus within a few days of each other have passed away Worth, Gaines, Polk, men of common parts, whose history is a part of the record of their country's glory. As is the case with all great men—the fame of Polk is yet too much blotted by the filth which the aspersions of party have cast upon it; but it will brighten with wearing, and the world will yet do justice to James K. Polk, whose administration was the most successful, as it was the most brilliant the country has ever had. But far be it from us to attempt to write his eulogy. The history of this country is mangled to his fame, and while the one is read, the other will be secure.

The Canal—Bath Management.

In the Chicago Journal of Tuesday evening we notice a card signed by all the principal forwarding merchants of that city, in which loud complaint is made against the superintendent of the canal. They say that

so many interruptions to navigation are continually experienced that they can make no contract with safety, and are continually subjected to heavy losses. Breaks are occurring daily, and for the reasons mainly that when repaired the work is done so bunglingly, as to invite their recurrence, &c., &c.

The forwarders of Chicago express only what half a dozen of our own forwarders have said to us during the past week, and had the card in the Journal been presented here for signatures, every one of our shippers would have signed it with an emphasis.

We are disappointed in the present superintendent on the canal. Although we never had an exalted opinion of his qualifications as an engineer, we supposed him to be a man of energy, and if he could not build or project, he could at least keep the canal in repair. But his management thus far seems to prove his utter incapacity in either respect. Last year the complaint was scarcity of water. This year there can be no such excuse, for even the prairies and mounds might supply water enough to keep the canal in good-bathable order. Take an instance under our own eye. Last week at one time there were twenty-five boats aground between here and Peru for want of water in the canal; at the same time there was a stream running from the side cut at this place into the river large enough itself to supply the canal from here to Peru.

Our canal has been cursed with bunglers from the beginning, and it is time we should be rid of them. The Governor a year ago had nerve enough to remove the prince of them, but since then, the trustees have, by an adroit trick, robbed our state authorities of all control over the management of the canal, by changing the name of the Chief Engineer to that of Superintendent. The result is manifesting itself in a way that will make them sick of such trickery. We have contended from the beginning that there can be no order or management about the canal while the trustees remain at a distance and leave the whole line in the hands of bungling agents who are irresponsible to the people here, and who have hitherto been able to bamboozle the trustees into the belief that they attended to their business.

At length the very traitors and defenders of these agents—such men as Isaac, Hardy, H. Norton, &c., &c., are obliged to cry out, and ask that the trustees shall attend to their duties and see that there is something like system and management shown on the canal. And they are not the only ones that will cry out. The foreign trustees must make up their minds to leave at least one of their number here during the greater part of the business season, so that thousands are not daily lost to the state through their neglect of duty and ignorance, or the people of this state, in view of an accumulation of such outrages, will raise a clamor about their ears that will bring them to their senses. In view of such frequent and gross breaches of the trust, our people have a remedy within their grasp, which they are eager to seize, and will seize the moment they can find a fair pretext.

There is a rumour afloat in the papers that Henry Clay endorses the speech of Col. Benton, and says its arguments are irrefutable. It would be a queer sight—Benton and Clay on the same platform.

"Keep it before the people that at Ryan & Sanger's is the place to buy goods cheap." In our hurry, last week in making up the advertisements for the Friday's paper, a right laughable, but rather too significant to be allowed to pass unnoticed, combination of items occurred. The following, which had been part of an old advertisement, was accidentally placed under the above quoted:

"The above is a falsehood. The author is guilty of a wilful perversion of truth, and I can prove it." Signed by a responsible name.

John Mullany, Architect in Chicago, in 1847, is wished to be heard from at this office. Where has he gone?—*Col. Davis.*

"Gone" to Ottawa, as many other good mechanics have done.

John Mullany, architect from Chicago, is a resident of this place, and, we believe, is doing a good business.

GRATIFYING—VERY!—An Indiana editor, on recently visiting a grave yard, says that he was much gratified to find such an increase of tombstones since his last visit.

Supreme Court.

Since our last the following cases have been disposed of:

Lathrop v. Warren—Appeal from Bureau. Appeal dismissed and ten per cent. damages awarded to appellee.

Woodruff v. Tyler, for the use, &c., appealed from Stephenson. Argued by J. C. Chapman for the appellant, and by E. S. Leland for appellee. Opinion of the court by Justice Caton, affirming the judgment below.

Maynard, Shaw, et al. v. Dennis—Appeal from Winnebago. This was a case involving the constitutionality of the law taxing Rockford Precinct, in Winnebago county for the support of a bridge across Rock River, and was elaborately argued by Marsh for the appellant, and Binham and Peters for the appellee. Justice Caton gave the opinion of the court sustaining the law—reversing the judgment and remanding the cause below.

Norton et al. v. Dow et al.—Appealed from Cook. E. Peck for the appellants, and J. M. Wilson for the appellees. Opinion by Chief Justice Tread, affirming the judgment of the court below.

Taff v. Sive—Appealed from Kane. Argued by B. C. Cook for appellant, and by J. M. Wilson for the appellee. Justice Trimbel delivered the opinion of the court, judgment reversed and the cause remanded.

Duthier v. Gossell—Error to Ozaukee. The question in this case was on the construction of the statute of attachment in the circuit court. Chief Justice Tread delivered the opinion of the court, deciding that the word "term," in the 22d section of the attachment act, meant time. Judgment reversed and the cause remanded.

Glover and Cook for the plaintiff, and O. Peters for the defendant in error.

Wood v. Mason—Appeal from Portage. Judgment reversed for non-jurisdiction in error on motion of N. H. Purple for the appellant.

A number of preliminary motions have been argued and decided by the court, but as we do not fully understand their bearing and effect we forbear further mention of them.

Editor of Springfield—War among the States—Four names in one day;

The Springfield papers came to us breathing out wrath and fury, and baying over with fiery descriptions of battles, sieges, moving accidents, and hair breadth escapes by flood and field." Taylor fought two battles in one day, and Scott three in a day and a night, but surely no hero of modern times has fought four distinct battles in less than so many hours, saving our heroic brothers of the gull, Messrs. Walker and Lamphier, of the Springfield Register.

Highly amusing and entertaining doubtless would it be to our readers could we transfer to our columns at length from the Springfield papers their graphic descriptions of these terrific scenes. But time nor space will permit, and our readers must be content with a very hasty sketch.

BATTLE No. 1.—They met [Walker and Sim Francis] "was in a crowd" at Beestore—Walker hits Francis a rap—they join—tussel—a dog fall (side by side)—Fratches W's face—W scratches back—Fraches "Take him off" all off he comes.

BATTLE No. 2.—In front of the store, W imposes a ring—F objects—Josiah Francis interferes and jerks W. by the shoulder—Sim hits W. with a stick—W. turns round and J. F. tells him up—W. springs to his feet in front of Sim to engage him—friends interfere and hostilities cease.

BATTLE No. 3.—The belligerents adjourn to meet at the mayor's office—on the way F. is met by Lamphier, who makes at him with a piece of lith and deals him a number of blows—J. F. comes up behind and catches him—F. hits L. with a "bludgeon"—W. comes up and attacks F.—Lamphier and F. are separated—W. and Sim continue the fight half way up the block, face to face, W. hacking "to get clear of the crowd."

BATTLE No. 4.—In front of Murray and Hunt's store W. stumbles—Sim seizes a pitchfork and makes at him—W. runs into the store and is cornered, where he cries for help—Sim continues to thrust the pitchfork at W., times foremost, inflicting slight wounds upon the leg, "a more vital place being protected by W. jumping up when the blows are struck." W. seizes the fork—they clinch—the crowd separate the combatants.

FINAL SCENE.—Lamphier goes up to Sim and challenges him to an open field, and they fight, Sim utters "for God's sake stop it!" L. is ejected from the house—Sim effects a masterly retreat?

The number killed and wounded and the destruction of property throughout all these terrible scenes—-are subjects on which the otherwise voluminous historians are provokingly obscure. It is pretty well settled, however, that blood (from the nose) did flow and that a basket of eggs was smashed, besides that an indefinite amount of linen was torn and so seriously soiled that it is supposed washing has riz.

The droiliest part about the whole business is, the disproportion in the sizes of the combatants. Sim Francis is a man who weighs over two hundred, of muscular, gigantic frame. To imagine a little chap like Walker pitching into such a mountain of flesh, in the highest degree ludicrous.

Death of G. T. M. Davis.

We learn with regret from St. Louis that G. T. M. Davis, junior editor of the St. Louis New Era, died of cholera in that city on Tuesday. Mr. D. was well known in this state, through his connection, for a number of years, with the Alton Telegraph, as junior editor. He also served with gallantry through the Mexican war as aid-de-camp to Gen. Shields. A political writer he was rather intemperate and bitter, but socially he was kind-hearted and always a very agreeable companion.

Corporation Laws.

Let Justice be done to the old board of Corporation Trustees! Previous to going out of office, they revised and digested all the corporation ordinances that had been previously passed, adding to where they were deficient, and lopping off superfluities—until they formed a full and excellent set of corporation laws. These have since been printed in pamphlet form, and copies are now procurable at the office of H. G. Colton, Esq. Let at least every household in town provide himself with a copy, so that all, knowing what our corporation regulations are, may not only live up to them themselves, but see that others do.

The Cholera.

There was another fatal case of cholera on a canal boat four miles below town. We have not heard the name of the last nor that of the deceased. He was a German emigrant, and was taken off the boat soon after his death and buried near Hadley's.

The weather for the past week has been exceedingly warm, the thermometer ranging between 83 and 86, and if we are to have any cholera at Ottawa, now or ever, we think it should come. Yet the health of our people continues excellent, even unusually so. This we think is attributable in a considerable degree to the preventive measures already adopted, for the season has surely not been more favorable to health than usual. We believe the new board of trustees are entitled to the credit of having saved life and prevented much suffering by seasonably lining the town, and closing every pond, so that, for the first time in the history of the place we believe, at this season, there is no stagnant water standing in any of the streets. Especially do we like the plan of the new board of building sewers as far as their means will permit. There is something permanent about such an improvement, and as the greatest object in view is to rid the town of an excess of surface water, this seems like an excellent idea.

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